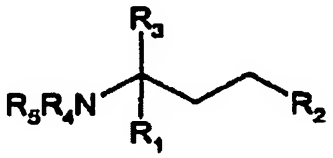
AMENDMENTS TO AND LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A compound of formula I

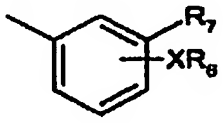


I

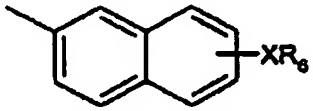
wherein

R_1 is C_{1-6}-alkyl optionally substituted by OH, C_{1-2}-alkoxy or 1-to-6 fluorine atoms; C_{2-6}-alkenyl; or C_{2-6}-alkynyl;

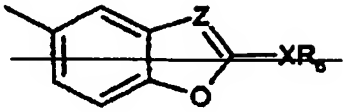
R_2 is a radical of formula a or b



a



b



~~c~~

wherein

R_6 is C_{1-12}-alkyl optionally substituted by halogen, by an optionally-substituted cycloalkyl, by an optionally-substituted phenyl, by an optionally-substituted heteroaryl, or by an optionally-substituted heterocyclic residue, wherein the C_{1-12}-alkyl optionally is interrupted by one or more O or C=O; and wherein the phenyl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, and/or heterocyclic residue may be substituted by 1-to-5 substituents independently selected from hydroxy; halogen; C_{1-4}-alkyl; C_{1-4}-alkyl substituted by 1-to-5 fluorine atoms; C_{1-4}-alkoxy; C_{1-4}-alkoxy substituted by 1-to-5 fluorine atoms; cyano; phenyl; and phenyl substituted by 1-to-5 substituents independently selected from hydroxy, halogen, C_{1-4}-alkyl, C_{1-4}-alkoxy, and cyano;

R_7 is H, optionally-substituted phenyl, optionally-substituted heteroaryl, wherein the phenyl and/or heteroaryl, independently, may be substituted by 1-to-5 substituents independently selected from hydroxy; halogen; C_{1-4}-alkyl; C_{1-4}-alkyl substituted by 1-to-5 fluorine atoms; C_{1-4}-alkoxy; C_{1-4}-alkoxy substituted by 1-to-5 fluorine atoms; and cyano; and

X is O;

~~Z is N or O;~~

R_3 is -A-B-COOH, where each of A and B, independently, is a bond, C=O or CDE, wherein each of D and E, independently, is H, halogen, C_{1-3}-alkyl or OH; with the proviso that A and B are not both C=O; and

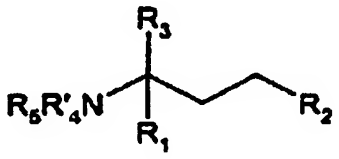
each of R_4 and R_5, independently, is H, C_{1-4}-alkyl optionally substituted by 1, 2 or 3 halogen atoms, or acyl, where acyl is a residue W-CO, wherein W is C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{3-6}-cycloalkyl, phenyl or phenylC_{1-4}-alkyl;

with the proviso that when R_4 is H, R_5 is H, R_3 is COOH, R_2 is a radical of formula a and R_7 is H, and either i) R_1 is CH_2OH and XR_6 is an unsubstituted C_{1-12}-alkyl that is not para to $(CH_2)_2$-$CR_1R_3(NR_4R_5)$; or ii) R_1 is CH_3 and XR_6 is an unsubstituted OC_{1-12}-alkyl that is not meta to $(CH_2)_2$-$CR_1R_3(NR_4R_5)$;

where heteroaryl is pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, furyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiophenyl, thialzolyl, isothiazolyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl or pyrazolyl; cycloalkyl is C_{3-6}-cycloalkyl; and a heterocyclic residue is tetrahydrofuryl, tetrahydropyranyl, aziridinyl, piperidinyl, pyrrolidinyl or piperazinyl;

in free form or in salt form.

2. (Currently amended) A compound of formula II



II,

wherein R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_5 are as defined in Claim 1, and R'_4 is a protecting group selected from benzyl, p-methoxybenzyl, methoxymethyl, tetrahydropyranyl, trialkylsilyl, acyl, where acyl is a residue W-CO, wherein W is C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{3-6}-cycloalkyl, phenyl or phenylC_{1-4}-alkyl, tert-butoxycarbonyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, 9-fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl and trifluoroacetyl,

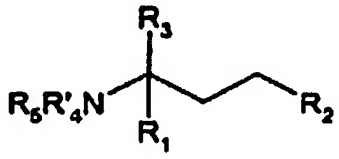
or a salt thereof.

3. (Previously presented) A compound according to Claim 1 which is selected from (R)-3-amino-5-(4-heptyloxy-phenyl)-3-methyl-pentanoic acid, (R)-4-amino-6-(4-heptyloxy-phenyl)-4-methyl-hexanoic acid and (R)-2-amino-4-(4-heptyloxy-phenyl)-2-methyl-butanoic acid.

4. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 1 in free form or in a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt form, together with one or more pharmaceutically-acceptable diluents or carriers therefor.

5-16 (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) The pharmaceutical ~~combination~~ composition of Claim ~~7~~ 4, wherein the compound is of formula II



II,

wherein ~~are as defined~~ R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_5 are as defined in Claim 1, and R'_4 is a

protecting group,
or a salt thereof.

18. (Currently amended) The pharmaceutical ~~combination~~ composition of Claim ~~7~~ 4, wherein the compound is selected from (R)-3-amino-5-(4-heptyloxy-phenyl)-3-methyl-pentanoic acid, (R)-4-amino-6-(4-heptyloxy-phenyl)-4-methyl-hexanoic acid and (R)-2-amino-4-(4-heptyloxy-phenyl)-2-methyl-butanoic acid.